

# AGUA HEDIONDA LAGOON

## CAULERPA TAXIFOLIA ERADICATION PROGRAM

### FALL 2002 REPORT

Merkel & Associates



#### Historical Distribution of *Caulerpa taxifolia* in Agua Hedionda

Cumulative distribution of *Caulerpa taxifolia* from June 2000-September 2002. *Caulerpa* has not been found in the west or central basins of the lagoon during this eradication effort.

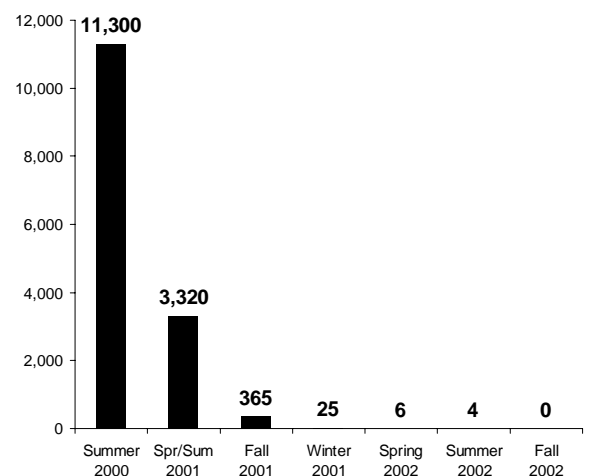
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#### Fall 2002 Update



During the Fall 2002 survey of the entire lagoon, no *Caulerpa* was found. While these results are very encouraging, it is critical to continue the survey effort in order to detect small patches that may have avoided detection or regrown from small fragments buried in the mud. The winter 2002 survey is currently under way.

Cover (ft<sup>2</sup>) Lagoon Wide



Approximate coverage of *Caulerpa* in Agua Hedionda by seasonal survey. Because *Caulerpa* infestations can regenerate from very small pieces, repeated surveys must be conducted to find all remaining occurrences of the seaweed.